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PORTO RICO.

Reports from Ponce.

PONCE, P. R., *September 16, 1901.*

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended September 14, 1901. Two vessels were inspected and passed and 2 bills of health were issued during the week. According to the official reports of the board of health, the city and district are free from any quarantinable disease.

Respectfully, W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

PONCE, P. R., *September 23, 1901.*

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended September 21, 1901; also mortality report of the city for the month of August, 1901.

Five vessels were inspected, 3 were passed and 2 in quarantine. The Spanish steamship *Cataluna*, from Havana, Port Limon, Colon, Sabanilla, Puerto Cabello, and La Guayra was held in quarantine and transacted her business while at this port under guard. No passengers for this port. The French steamship *St. Domingue*, arrived from Port au Prince, Petit Goaive, Jeremie, Aux-Cayes, Jacmel, Santo Domingo, and Mayaguez, presented clean bills of health, and after the usual inspection of the passengers and crew the vessel was admitted to free pratique and her passengers permitted to land, disinfecting 17 pieces of baggage and 2 sacks of mail. Twenty five pieces were inspected and passed. Four bills of health were issued during the week.

The provisional flag steamship *Julia* arrived, disinfected as usual at Santiago. The vessel was held in quarantine to detain nonimmunes from Cuba. Passengers from Santo Domingo were permitted to land after disinfection of baggage. Twenty-eight pieces were disinfected with 1 sack of mail; 117 pieces, chiefly from Cuba, were inspected and passed.

I have noticed 1 case of varicella (?) quarantined in the city. As so many of the physicians here use this term for varioloid, although admitting that the diseases are not identical, one can not help being suspicious of all cases diagnosed so. They serve to keep alive the smallpox infection. The case is "quarantined" by a sign and yellow flag, but no guard. The house is a small shack on a prominent street and in close proximity to the neighboring houses. There is no interference with communication between the infected house and the outside world.

This being the rainy season the streets have been quite well flushed, but the increase of malaria is noticeable on account of the breeding of mosquitoes in the numerous ponds of undrained water.

The death rate for August, 1891, shows a great difference from that of August, 1900. It has now about reached normal.

Respectfully, W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Number and causes of deaths in Ponce jurisdiction (city, playa, and surrounding country) during the month of August, 1901.

Diseases of—		Wound	2
Digestive system	57	Asphyxia	1
Respiratory system	10	Septicæmia	2
Circulatory system	8	Tetanus, infantile	2
Nervous system	9	Diabetes Melitus	1
Anæmia, malnutrition, inanition	11	Senile cachexia	2
Malaria	9	Dropsy	1
Tuberculosis	6		
Typhoid fever	1	Total	123
Teething	1		

Number of deaths reported during August, 1901 (*a*)	123
Number of deaths reported during August, 1900 (*a*)	681
Number of births reported during August, 1901 (*a*)	125
Number of births reported during August, 1900 (*a*)	107

a These figures are for the city proper, the playa, and surrounding district of Ponce.

TURKEY.

Plague in Smyrna

[Copy of cablegram received over telephone from State Department, September 28, 1901, 11.15 a. m.]

SMYRNA, TURKEY, *September 28, 1901.*

Secretary of State, Washington.—Plague.—LANE.
The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Foreign and insular statistical reports of countries and cities—Yearly and monthly.

BAHAMAS—*Dunmore Town.*—Two weeks ended September 15, 1901. Estimated population, 1,232. One death. No contagious diseases.

Governors Harbor.—Two weeks ended September 15, 1901. Estimated population, 1,375. No deaths and no contagious diseases.

Green Turtle Cay—Abaco.—Two weeks ended September 12, 1901. Estimated population, 3,314. No deaths and no contagious diseases.

Nassau.—Two weeks ended September 17, 1901. Estimated population, 12,535. No deaths and no contagious diseases reported.

BELGIUM—*Ghent.*—Month of August, 1901. Estimated population, 153,740. Total number of deaths, 323, including enteric fever, 5, and 54 from tuberculosis.

CANADA—*Province of Ontario.*—Reports to the provincial board of health, for the month of July, from 706 municipalities, having an aggregate estimated population of 2,032,667, show a total of 1,946 deaths, including diphtheria, 29; enteric fever, 18; measles, 11; scarlet fever, 7; whooping cough, 16, and 182 from phthisis pulmonalis.

FRANCE—*Marseilles.*—Month of July, 1901. Estimated population, 491,161. Total number of deaths, 1,062, including diphtheria, 7;